

N.



SEPT. NO. 12
10¢

YOU AND YOUR GANG OF
THUGS HAVE GONE TOO FAR.
NOW WE'LL SEE WHO'S
TOUGH AROUND HERE !

THE LAW
ALWAYS WINS!

CRIME SMASHERS

AWK!

LEGO
DE
BOSS!

featuring:
SALLY THE SLEUTH
DAN TURNER
GIRL FRIDAY
RAY HALE

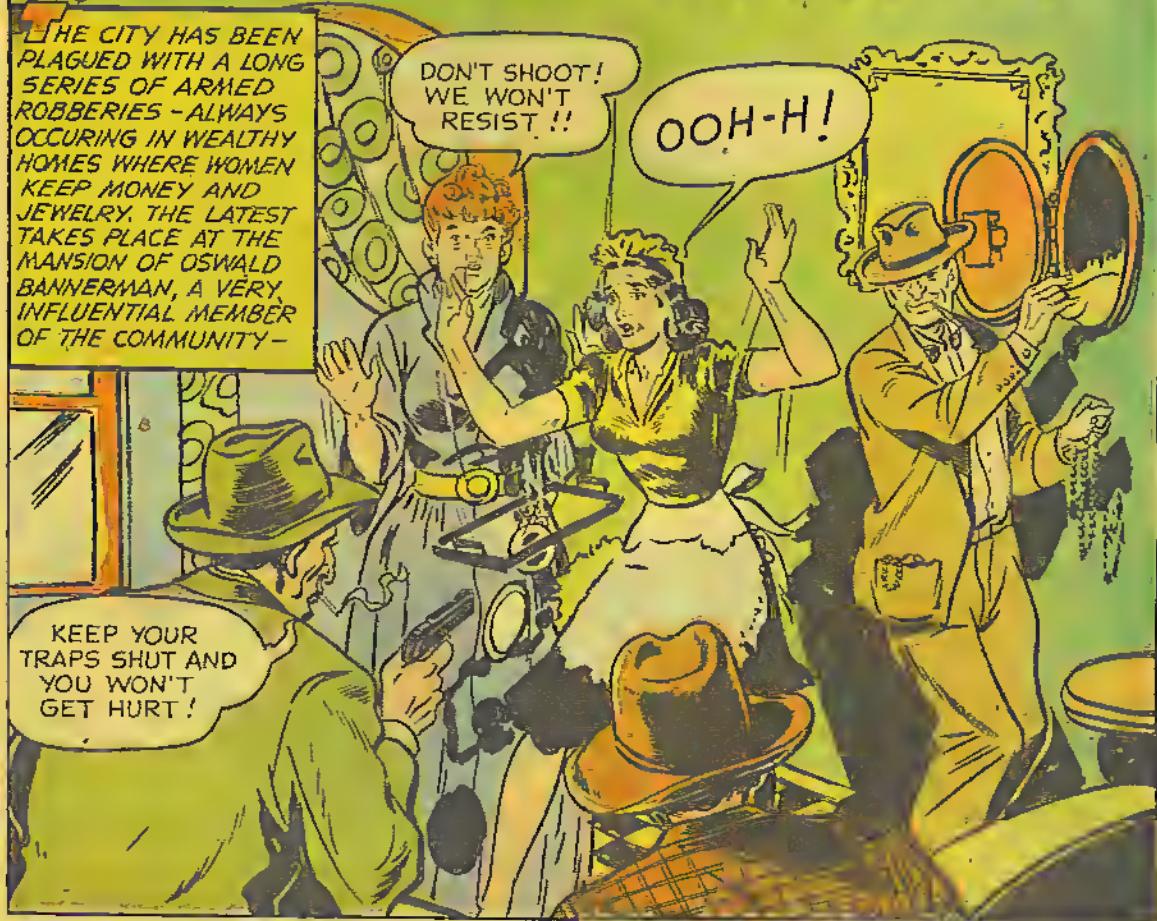
CRIME CAN'T PAY - IN ANY WAY !

WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



GAIL FORD - GIRL FRIDAY

THE CITY HAS BEEN PLAGUED WITH A LONG SERIES OF ARMED ROBBERIES - ALWAYS OCCURRING IN WEALTHY HOMES WHERE WOMEN KEEP MONEY AND JEWELRY. THE LATEST TAKES PLACE AT THE MANSION OF OSWALD BANNERMAN, A VERY INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY -



THAT NIGHT, A STOOL PIGEON TIPS OFF A DETECTIVE WITH SOME HOT INFO...

HEY, MAC, I KNOW YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR THE BRAINS BEHIND THAT STICK-UP MOB. I GOTTA TIP FOR YUH. GET A LINE ON A WOMAN NAMED **NINA** - SHE'S A FORTUNE TELLER ON ASH STREET.

THANKS, SOAPY. HERE'S A TEN-SPOT FOR YOU.



AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, INSPECTOR MADSON ACTS ON THE RECENT TIP-OFF ...

BANNERMAN HAS BEEN YELLING BLOODY MURDER SINCE HIS HOME WAS ROBBED. WE'VE GOT TO GET ACTION, GAIL, YOU'RE ONLY MY SECRETARY, BUT YOU CAN HELP. GO GET A PALM READING FROM THIS WOMAN, NINA, AND TELL US WHAT YOU FIND OUT.



GAIL IMPERSONATES A WEALTHY, LOVELORN GIRL AND GOES TO SEE NINA, THE FORTUNE TELLER...

I DON'T CARE IF MY DAD IS RICH... I WANT LOVE TO BRING ME HAPPINESS. TELL ME, WILL I EVER MEET THE MAN OF MY DREAMS?

SURE YOU WILL, MY DEAR. HE'LL BE TALL, DARK, AND HANDSOME -



AFTER FEEDING NINA A PLAUSIBLE STORY, GAIL LEAVES... AND IS TEMPTED...

IF I SNEAK UPSTAIRS, MAYBE I CAN FIND OUT SOMETHING... MAYBE SPOT SOME OF THE LOOT...



BUT HER LUCK RUNS OUT. UPSTAIRS, SHE IS SEIZED BY THE GANG... ONE RECOGNIZES HER...

WHAT YA SNOOPIN' AROUND FOR?

OH-H! LET ME GO!

HEY - I KNOW THAT DAME... I SEEN HER DOWN AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS!



ANGRY NINA RUSHES UPSTAIRS...

SO! A POLICE PLANT, EH? I THOUGHT SHE SOUNDED PHONY. TIE HER UP AND THROW HER IN THAT ROOM. WE'LL GET RID OF HER AS SOON AS IT IS DARK.



LEFT ALONE, GAIL WRIGGLES UNTIL HER COMPACT FALLS OUT OF HER POCKET...



WITH HER FEET, SHE BREAKS THE MIRROR...



...AND MANAGES TO CUT THE ROPES BINDING HER WRISTS...



GAIL QUICKLY GOES DOWN THE FIRE ESCAPE...



BUT, AS SHE REACHES THE FLOOR BELOW, SHE IS GRABBED AND DRAGGED INTO THE WINDOW...



SHE IS CHLOROFORMED...

TAKE NO CHANCES ON HER GETTING AWAY AGAIN!



WHEN GAIL REVIVES, SHE IS IN A HIDEAWAY DEEP IN THE SEWERS, SURROUNDED BY THE VIOLENT DREGS OF THE UNDERWORLD...



MEANWHILE, THE INSPECTOR IS WORRIED...

GAIL SHOULD HAVE RETURNED LONG AGO, COME ON - WE'LL RAID THAT PALM READER'S JOINT!



COPS SWARM INTO THE HOUSE OF THE FORTUNE TELLER...



AT THE SAME TIME, DOWN IN THE DANK SEWER, GAIL DESPERATELY PLAYS FOR TIME...

CAN'T YOU LET ME HAVE ONE LAST CIGARETTE?

ALL RIGHT, BUT MAKE IT SNAPPY.



A SHORT WHILE LATER...

YOU'VE FINISHED THAT CIGARETTE, NOW WE'LL DO THE JOB AND COLLECT OUR DOUGH FROM NINA.

YOU THINK SO?



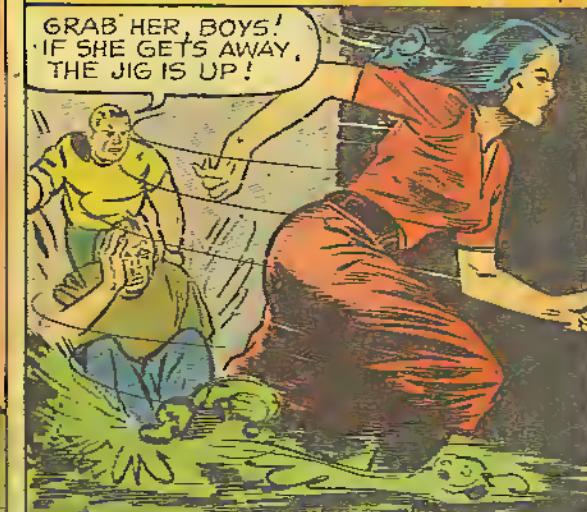
WELL, HERE'S SOMETHING ON ACCOUNT!

YOW!



TAKING TO HER HEELS, GAIL VANISHES INTO THE BLACKNESS OF THE CAVERNS...

GRAB HER, BOYS! IF SHE GETS AWAY, THE JIG IS UP!



BUT BY HIDING AND TWISTING HER TRAIL, GAIL ELUDES HER PURSUITERS AND STUMBLIES, WAIST-DEEP, THROUGH THE MURKY SEWERS...

LOOKS LIKE I'VE LOST THEM, BUT HOW AM I GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS HORRIBLE PLACE...?



ONE MENACE IS REPLACED BY ANOTHER WHEN SHE IS SUDDENLY ATTACKED BY A PACK OF GIANT RATS...

EEE-EEK!



FRANTICALLY, SHE BEATS THEM OFF WITH HER SHOE...

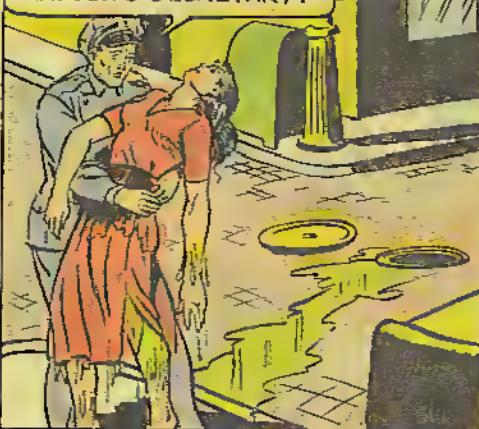


THEN SHE SEES A GLEAM OF LIGHT...



SHE STUMBLES INTO THE OPEN AND COLLAPSES IN THE ARMS OF A COP...

WHAT'S THIS? WHAT WERE YOU — WHY, IT'S MISS FORD, INSPECTOR MADSON'S SECRETARY!



GAIL QUICKLY RETURNS TO HEADQUARTERS...

THAT HOUSE IS FULL OF CROOKS, INSPECTOR. I THINK YOU SHOULD PULL THE PLACE RIGHT AWAY!

WE'VE DONE SO ALREADY, GAIL, AND WE HAVE NINA AND HER CROWD BEHIND BARS. YOU LOOK A MESS, BUT I'M GLAD YOU GOT BACK SAFE AND SOUND.



I ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT. NINA HAS ANOTHER CREW OF RASCALS WHO HIDE OUT IN THE SEWERS!

WE FOUND CONSIDERABLE LOOT IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HOUSE, NOW WE'LL ROUND UP THAT BUNCH IN THE SEWERS AND SEND THEM ALL TO THE PEN FOR A LONG STRETCH.



THANKS FOR HELPING OUT, GAIL. YOU'RE A BRAVE GIRL.

OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT, BOSS. I WAS JUST WONDERING IF NINA WAS RIGHT WHEN SHE SAID I WOULD MEET THAT "TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME"...



Ray HALE

"AFTER-HOURS KILLING"

THE CITY EDITOR OF THE "CLARION" RECEIVES A HOT TIP, AND CALLS HALE, HIS STAR REPORTER, OVER...

RAY, HERE'S A FLASH FROM OUR MAN AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS. SAYS THE WIFE OF REX DICKSON, THE WEALTHY LAWYER, HAS REPORTED HIM MISSING!

THAT GUY'S A NIGHT OWL ANYWAY... PROBABLY ON A BINGE!

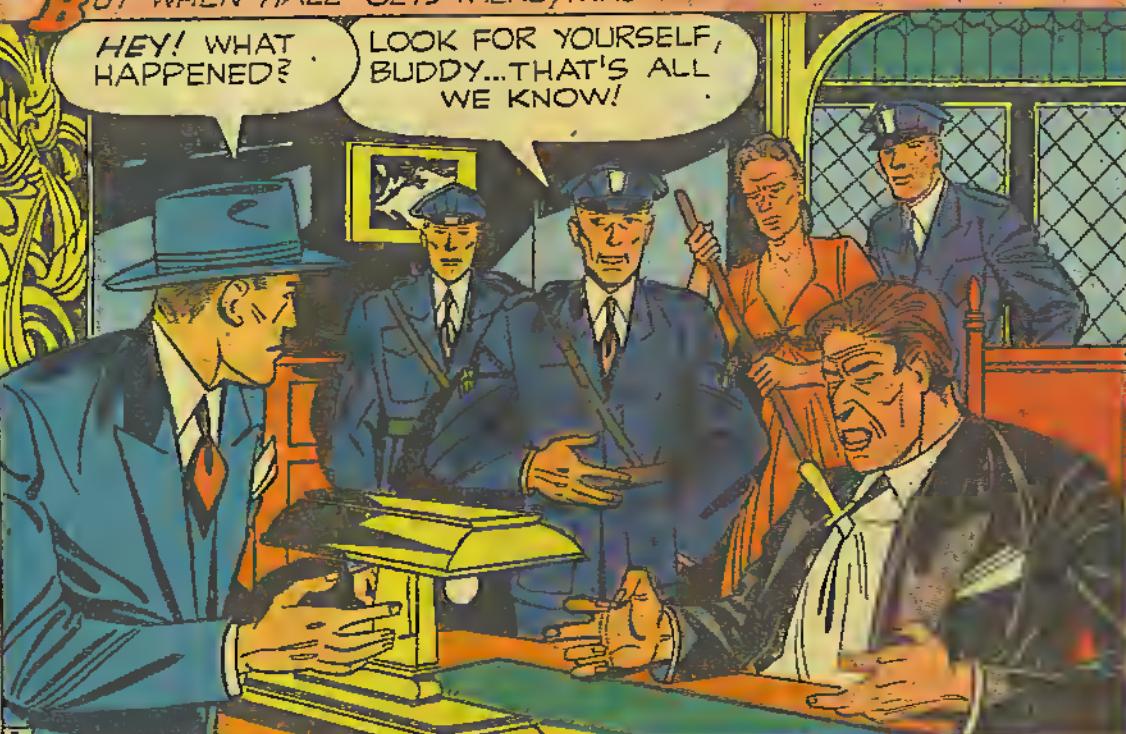
by DOUGLAS MARCH

WELL, HE'S GOOD COPY. LOOK IT'S INTO IT! EARLY, BUT I'LL TRY HIS OFFICE!

BUT WHEN HALE GETS THERE, TRAGEDY HAS PRECEDED HIM...

HEY! WHAT HAPPENED?

LOOK FOR YOURSELF, BUDDY... THAT'S ALL WE KNOW!



AS I SAYS, MR. DICKSON WAS HERE ALIVE, WHEN I CLEANED THE OFFICE LAST NIGHT. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I WANT TO TELL YOU!

BEFORE I LEFT THE FLOOR, I SAW A YOUNG LADY COME OUT OF THIS OFFICE...ABOUT NINE O'CLOCK...



HALE SPIES A WOMAN'S PURSE ON A CHAIR...

THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE SCRUBWOMAN'S!



THIS CAN BE VERY IMPORTANT.
HOPE THE FLATFEET DON'T CATCH ME MAKING LOVE TO IT...



WHO ARE YOU?

I'M WALT COLLINS, MR. DICKSON'S CLERK. I CAME AS SOON AS YOU PHONED ME. WHAT HAPPENED?



YOU CAN SEE...HE'S MURDERED!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?

WHY, NOTHING! I LEFT HIM HERE AT FIVE YESTERDAY.
POOR MR. DICKSON!
I'VE WORKED FOR HIM FOR TWENTY YEARS.



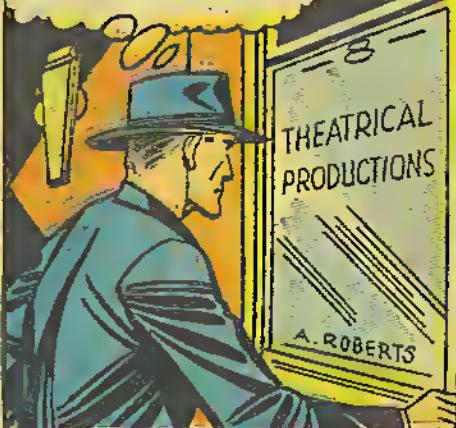
UNOBTRUSIVELY HALE LEAVES THE SCENE OF THE MURDER...



THIS BELONGS TO GINGER ROSS, THE ACTRESS! HERE ARE A BATCH OF HER PRESS CLIPPINGS. SO... SHE WAS THE BABE IN DICKSON'S OFFICE!



BEFORE I GO TO SEE GINGER, THERE'S AN ANGLE I WANT TO CHECK UP ON, IN HERE.



HALE SCANS THE AFTER-HOURS REGISTER FOR THE PRECEDING DAY...

NO RECORD OF THE DAME FROM 315 AT NINE LAST NIGHT. SHE MUST HAVE WALKED DOWN AND SLIPPED OUT...



AND HERE'S THE NOTICE OF A NEW SHOW JUST CASTING... SAYS THEY NEED DOUGH. I WONDER IF SHE WAS TRYING TO GET IT FROM HIM... THIS DOLL NEEDS LOOKING INTO!



HALE KNOWS A GIRL IN THE SHOW PRODUCER'S OFFICE...

HIYA, BABY! I NEED SOME INFORMATION. CAN YOU TELL ME HOW ROBERTS IS FINANCING THE NEW SHOW THAT GINGER POSS' IS TO STAR IN?

SURE, RAY... JUST A MINUTE...



MISS ROSS? I'M
"HALE OF THE
"CLARION". WANNA
TALK TO
THE PRESS?

WHY, OF
COURSE! I
ALWAYS CAN
USE PUBLICITY!
COME ON IN...



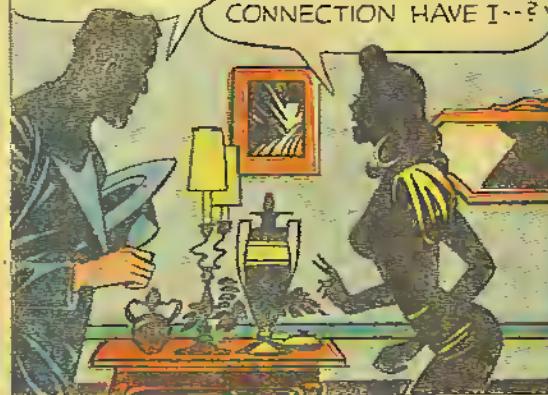
SORRY... I DIDN'T COME ABOUT
THAT, TOOTS! DO YOU
KNOW THAT REX
DICKSON HAS BEEN
MURDERED?

WHAT?
NO! IT CAN'T
BE! I ONLY...



MAYBE YOU
STUCK THE
SHIV INTO
HIM YOUR-
SELF, HONEY!

OF COURSE I
DIDN'T! I ADMIRER
HIM VERY MUCH!
BUT WHY DO YOU
COME TO ME? WHAT
CONNECTION HAVE I--?



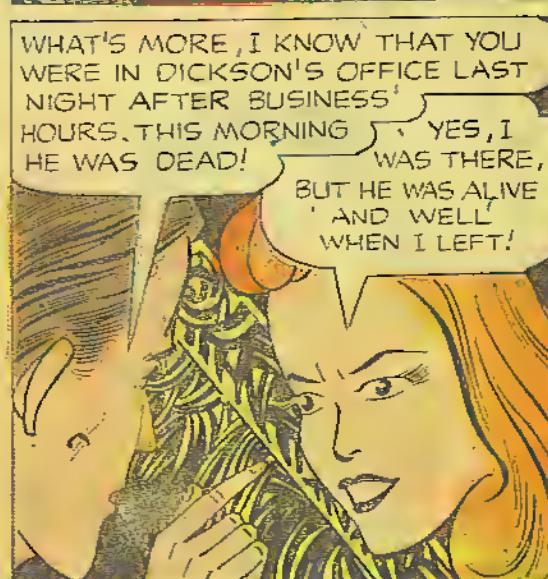
WHAT CONNECTION? HE WAS GOING
TO PUT UP THE MONEY FOR YOUR
NEW SHOW, WASN'T
HE? THEN, HE
BACKED OUT!

HEY! THAT'S
NONE OF YOUR
AFFAIR,
YOU SNOOP!



WHAT'S MORE, I KNOW THAT YOU
WERE IN DICKSON'S OFFICE LAST
NIGHT AFTER BUSINESS
HOURS. THIS MORNING
HE WAS DEAD!

YES, I
WAS THERE,
BUT HE WAS ALIVE
AND WELL
WHEN I LEFT!



WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
SIGN
OUT?

BECAUSE HE WAS MARRIED,
AND DIDN'T WANT OUR
NAMES CONNECTED. HE
ASKED ME ALWAYS TO WALK
DOWN WHEN I WENT TO
HIS OFFICE.



HALE'S GAZE IS CAUGHT
BY A PHOTOGRAPH
NEARBY...



HALE, RISING TO LEAVE, DELIBERATELY
STUMBLES OVER THE SMALL TABLE,
THROWING ITS CONTENTS TO THE FLOOR...



BUT WHEN HALE LEAVES, THE
PHOTOGRAPH IS SAFELY
IN HIS POCKET...



AS SOON AS SHE MISSES THE
PICTURE, GINGER MAKES A
FRANTIC PHONE CALL...



AFTER A DAY OF RUNNING DOWN
CLUES, HALE HEADS FOR HOME...



SUDDENLY, HE IS VICIOUSLY
ATTACKED FROM THE SHADOWS...



THE MYSTERIOUS ASSAILANT
SEARCHES HALE'S POCKETS...



THE REPORTER REVIVES...



HE MUST WANT THAT PICTURE...
BUT PLENTY! THAT GIVES ME
AN IDEA... IT'S THE ANGLE
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

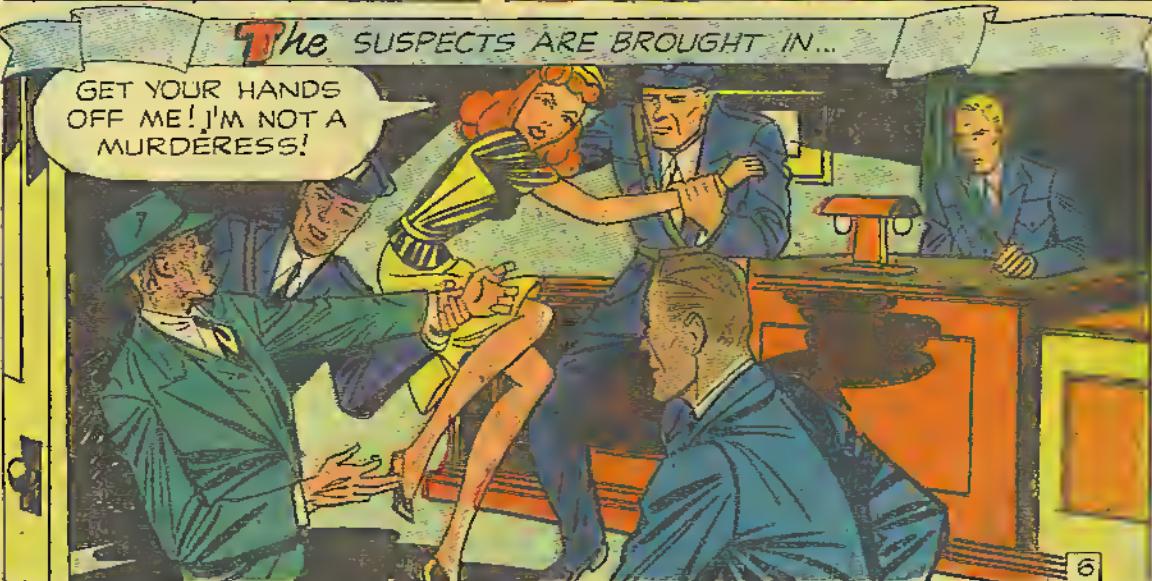


HERE'S WHAT I FOUND OUT, SERGEANT.
GET THESE PEOPLE DOWN HERE
AND WORK THIS ANGLE. JUST
GIVE ME THE CHANCE
TO BREAK IT FIRST
IN MY PAPER!



The SUSPECTS ARE BROUGHT IN...

GET YOUR HANDS
OFF ME! I'M NOT A
MURDERESS!



COLLINS, YOU
WERE IN THE
OFFICE
YESTERDAY?

YES, BUT I TELL
YOU, I LEFT MR.
DICKSON THERE
AT FIVE O'CLOCK!



ALL RIGHT, THEN THIS GIRL WAS
THERE LATER! SHE KILLED
DICKSON AND NOW SHE'LL
FACE A FIRST DEGREE
MURDER CHARGE!

NO...
I DIDN'T
KILL HIM!



YOU WANTED DICKSON TO 'PUT UP
DOUGH FOR YOUR NEW SHOW!
HE REFUSED, AND YOU
STABBED HIM! CONFESS!

YOU CAN'T
PIN THIS
ON ME!

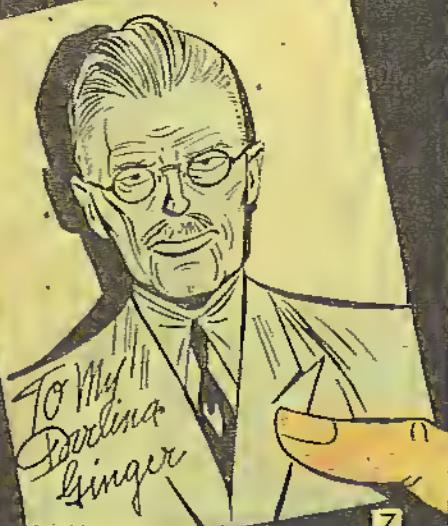


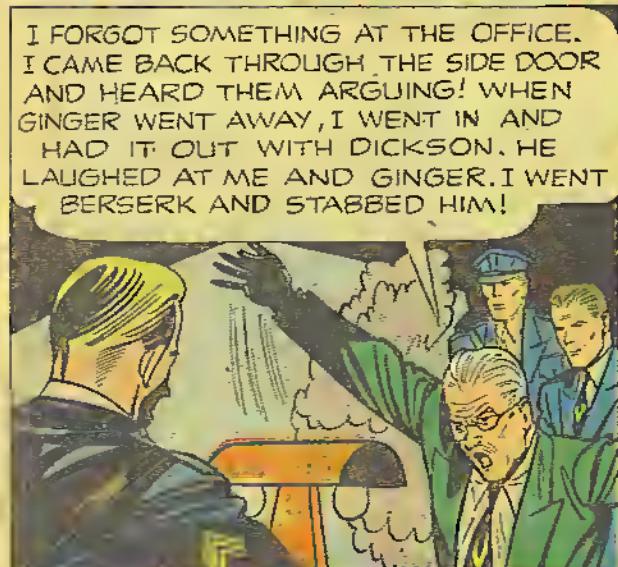
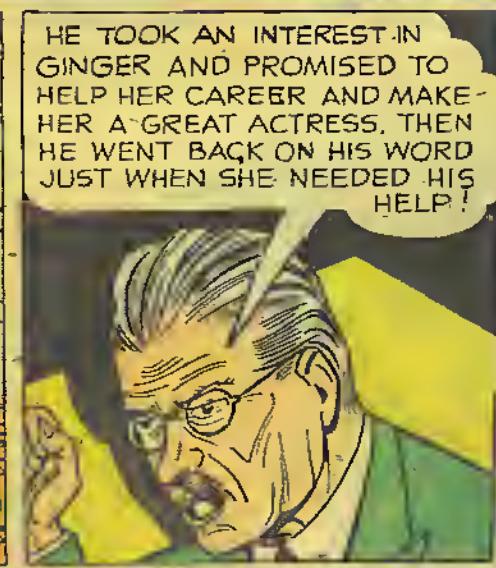
NO! NO!
SHE DIDN'T
DO IT!

HOW DID
YOU KNOW?



YOU'RE RIGHT! SHE DIDN'T KILL DICKSON!
YOU DID! YOU YOURSELF WERE SWEET ON
GINGER. YOU WERE JEALOUS OF HIM!
HERE'S YOUR PORTRAIT INSCRIBED TO
HER...CAN YOU DENY IT?





SALLY the SLEUTH

"TUMBLING CORPSES"

ONE DAY SALLY IS TAKEN ALONG BY HER CHIEF TO A CONFERENCE WITH JED CONYERS, HEAD OF A TOP-FLIGHT AGENCY FOR GLAMOROUS MODELS...

I GUESS YOU'VE READ IN THE PAPERS ABOUT HONEY HARE, MY TOP MODEL, FALLING FROM OUR ROOF YESTERDAY! WELL, THIS MORNING, I GOT A LETTER THREATENING THAT MORE OF MY GIRLS WILL DIVE TO THE STREET. IT LOOKS LIKE A PLOT.

HAVÉ YOU ANY ENEMIES WHO MIGHT HAVE HELPED CAUSE THIS TRAGEDY?

CHARLES CONYERS
CONYERS AGENCY



NOT THAT I KNOW OF, BUT I'M WORRIED. IT LOOKS AS IF IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT AFTER ALL. IT COULD BE MURDER.

COULD BE! WE'LL STUDY THAT LETTER FOR CLUES.



I SURELY HOPE YOU CAN GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS MESS. IT'S DRIVING ME NUTS.

YOU LEAVE IT TO US.



BUT NEXT DAY, ANOTHER CURVACEOUS CUTIE TUMBLERS FROM THE SKY BEFORE HORRIFIED ONLOOKERS . . .



WELL, THIS IS WHAT WE'LL DO: SALLY WILL BECOME ONE OF YOUR MODELS. GIVE HER LOTS OF PUBLICITY—SPREAD THE NEWS THAT SHE'S A NEW "FIND".

OH, I'D LOVE TO BE A MODEL!

SURE, SHE'S AS PRETTY AS ANY OF THEM.

NEXT DAY, CONYERS SHOWS SALLY AROUND, INCLUDING THE ROOF...

THIS IS OUR SOLARIUM, AND JOSH BOND, OUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR.

HOW DO YOU DO?

HELLO—

AFTER CONYERS HAS RETURNED TO HIS OFFICE SALLY STAYS ON THE ROOF AND WATCHES THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR...

MY, THE PLACE IS DESERTED! WONDER WHERE THAT BOND GUY WENT--

THERE HE IS -- WHOM CAN HE BE PHONING TO - ?

THAT NIGHT, AS BOND LEAVES THE BUILDING, SALLY IS ON HIS TAIL...

SHE THEN WATCHES HIM MEET HIS "DATE".

I WONDER WHO SHE IS --?

'LD, JOSH

HI, BABY.
LET'S GO IN HERE WHERE WE CAN TALK.

BAR

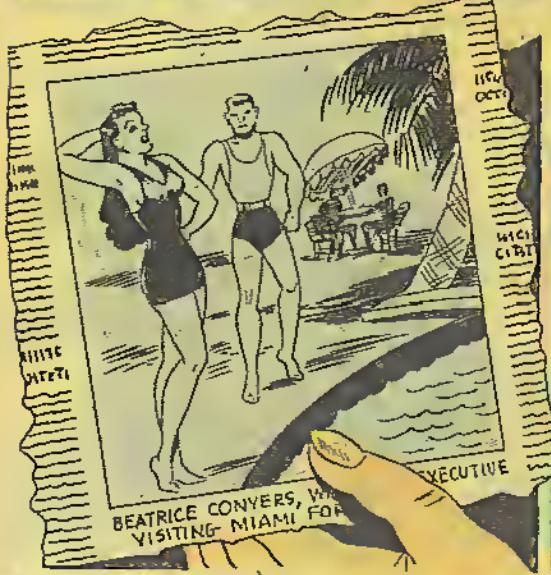
SALLY FOLLOWS AND KEEPS THEM IN VIEW, BUT CANNOT GET NEAR ENOUGH TO OVERHEAR THE CONVERSATION...

THAT DAME'S FACE IS FAMILIAR-- WHERE HAVE I SEEN IT BEFORE?



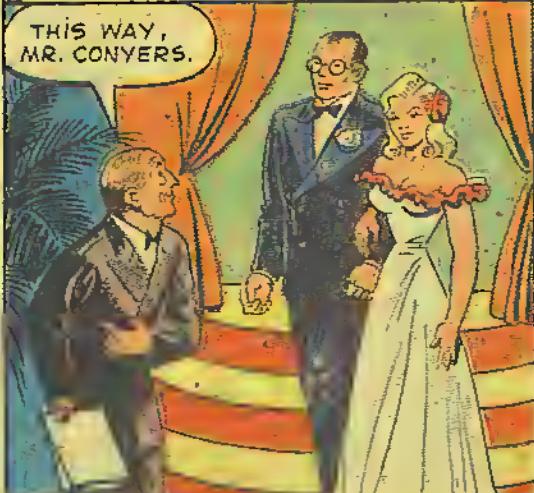
BACK IN HER OFFICE, SALLY PLOWS THROUGH A MASS OF CLIPPINGS...

HERE IT IS! IT'S CONYERS' ESTRANGED WIFE BEATRICE... A PICTURE OF HER SWIMMING DOWN IN FLORIDA--AND THAT GUY IN THE BACKGROUND IS JOSH BOND!



**SALLY IS SOON SEEN WITH CONYERS
AT FASHIONABLE NIGHT SPOTS ...**

**THIS WAY,
MR. CONYERS.**



AND AT THE RACES...

**THEY'RE
OFF!**

**OH, MR. CONYERS,
THIS IS THRILLING!**



**AND SOON THE GOSSIP COLUMNISTS
BEGIN TO MENTION THEM ...**

**JED CONYERS AND HIS
NEW GLAMOR GIRL ARE
THE NEWEST TWOSOME
AT THE LATE SPOTS...**

**WHO IS THE BLONDE
CUTIE SEEN AROUND
TOWN WITH A TOP
MODEL AGENCY MAN**

**...IT LOOKS LIKE LOVE
BETWEEN A PROMINENT
MODEL AGENT AND HIS
LATEST BLONDE FIND
WHO ARE SEEN AT ALL
SMART SPOTS IN**

BUT IN THE OFFICE OF THE MODEL AGENCY...

**SALLY, WE'RE GETTING
NOWHERE FAST. EVERYBODY
IN TOWN IS LAUGHING AT
ME. JUST LOOK AT THIS
ITEM I FOUND IN THE
MORNING PAPER -**

**CHEER UP,
WE'LL BREAK
THE CASE
SOON.**



CONYERS SHOWS SALLY THE CLIPPING...

**JED CONYERS AGENCY
REPORTED ABOUT TO
FOLD UP. DEATHS OF
TWO TOP MODELS STILL
UNSOLVED, HIS GIRLS
HAVE ALL QUIT HIS
MANAGEMENT. THEIR
TRUTH TO ME IN U.C. 1311**

**A WHILE LATER, SALLY GOES UP TO THE ROOF AND
CHANGES TO HER "LEOTARD", THE EXERCISE COSTUME...**

**GOSH, IT SURE IS DESERTED UP
HERE. NOW I REALIZE HOW
POOR MR. CONYERS FEELS -**



HELLO, WANNA TAKE A SUN BATH ?

NO, MR. BOND. JUST STRETCH OUT AND REST A WHILE. I'VE BEEN POSING MOST OF THE AFTERNOON, AND I'M TIRED.



I THINK I'LL PARK HERE.

OH, TAKE THIS ONE. I ASSURE YOU IT'S A LOT MORE COMFORTABLE.



SALLY LOOKS UNDERNEATH AND SEES ...

WHAT'S ALL THIS MECHANISM FOR...? SAY-Y ! I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT ! HE WANTED ME TO TAKE THIS PLACE FOR A REASON -- A DEADLY REASON !!



I'LL PUT ONE FOOT OVER THIS SIDE AND REST MY WEIGHT ON IT. SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN AWFULLY QUICKLY AND I DON'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT --



THERE IT GOES !



SALLY GRABS HER GAT FROM HER MODEL'S HATBOX ...

PUT 'EM UP, YOU MURDERING DEVIL ! HERE'S ONE MODEL YOU WON'T CATAULPT OVER THE EDGE OF THE ROOF.



GET DOWNSTAIRS OR I'LL BLAST
YOU TO BITS !



ON THE AGENCY OFFICE ...

HERE'S THE KILLER,
MR. CONVERS. YOUR
'CASE IS SOLVED.'

BOND? WHY-
WHAT--!



DON'T STAND THERE GAPING!
PHONE THE CHIEF TO GET RIGHT
OVER HERE... I'LL KEEP THIS
? RAT COVERED.



A SHORT WHILE LATER ...

GOOD WORK, SALLY.
I'LL TAKE OVER
NOW. WHAT
HAPPENED?



I DISCOVERED HE
HAD RIGGED ONE OF
THE RECLINING CHAIRS
ON THE ROOF WITH A
SPRING. WHEN NO ONE
WAS AROUND TO SEE, HE
COULD PRESS A BUTTON
AT THE OTHER END OF
A WIRE AND TOSS THE
OCCUPANT OVER A
NEARBY COPING - AND
THERE'S NOTHING BUT
THE STREET, FIFTEEN
STORIES BELOW!
THAT'S HOW THOSE
GIRLS WERE SENT
TO KINGDOM COME.

YOU
FIEND!

Y-YOU'VE GOT ME! I'M IN LOVE
WITH YOUR WIFE BEATRICE AND
I'D DO ANYTHING SHE ASKED ME
TO. THIS WAS HER IDEA. SHE
HATES YOUR GUTS AND WANTS
TO RUIN YOU.



WELL, YOU'RE NOW HEADED FOR
THE HOT SEAT AT SING SING,
BUDDY, AND THAT'LL JUST ABOUT
RUIN YOU!



LOOK FOR THE NEWEST ADVENTURES OF
SALLY IN THE NEXT CRIME SMASHERS...

DAN TURNER —

HOLLYWOOD DETECTIVE

"MYSTO-MAGIC MURDER"

DAN TURNER ATTENDS A MIDNIGHT MEN'S PARTY FOR SOME BIG SHOTS IN HOLLYWOOD. HE FINDS THE ENTERTAINMENT STIMULATING, TO SAY THE LEAST . . .

. . . THERE ARE SINGERS AND DANCERS ON THE BILL OF ENTERTAINERS —

. . . BUT MOST SPECTACULAR OF ALL CHARM MARLOWE, WHO PRODUCES SNAKES OUT OF EMPTY HATS . . .

PRESTO! CHANGE-O!
NOW YOU SEE THEM --
NOW YOU DON'T !!

THAT'S THE BEST TRICK OF ALL!

NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT!

NOR ME.

OLD STUFF.
I'VE WATCHED HER DO THIS ACT LOTS OF TIMES



NOW I'LL MAKE A MAN VANISH. WILL ONE OF YOU GENTLEMEN STEP FORWARD?

COME ON. IF SOMEONE WILL VOLUNTEER, I'LL REWARD HIM WITH A KISS!

FAMED MOVIE COMEDIAN TONY VANN IS URGED BY PAT O'NEILL, HIS AGENT.

BE A SPORT, TONY. LET THE LADY MAKE YOU DISAPPEAR -- FOR LAUGHS.

GET YOUR THIEVING-HANDS OFF ME!

TONY VANN'S NEPHEW, PETE DRAKE, HORNS IN.

GO AHEAD, UNCLE TONY. WHY BE STUBBORN?

NIX, YOU YOUNG IDIOT. I JILTED CHARLIE'S SISTER A LONG TIME AGO. SHE MIGHT TRY TO GET REVENGE ON ME.

WILL THIS PERSUADE YOU?

DRUNKENLY RELUCTANT, VANN GETS INTO THE MYSTO-MAGIC CABINET.

NOW-NOW, - BE A
GOOD BOY --

OH--
OKAY-

NOW THE MYSTIC WORD--
ÄLLA-GA-ZOOCH!



PRESTO! MR. VANN
IS GONE!



DAN TURNER LEAPS TO THE CABINET...

I SMELL
TROUBLE!

GRO-O-O-DAN-

... AND RIPS THE FALSE BACK



HE'S HAVING CONVULSIONS!



HOLY SMOKE!
HE'S DEFUNCT
AND THERE'S A SNAKE BITE ON HIS NECK!



ONE OF YOUR SNAKES GOT LOOSE
AND FANGED TONY VANN TO DEATH!

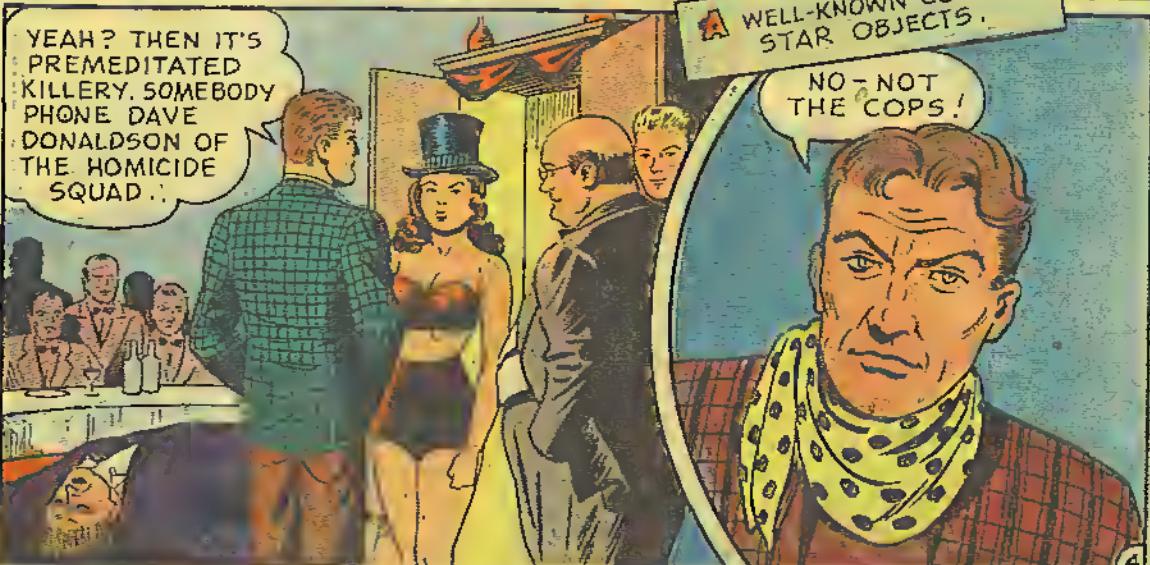
NO! OH-H,
N-NO !!



I HAVE ONLY FOUR SNAKE AND
THEY'RE ALL SAFE IN THIS CAGE.
BESIDES, THEY'RE HARMLESS, I HAD
THEIR FANGS AND POISON SACS
REMOVED.



YEAH? THEN IT'S
PREMEDITATED
KILLERY, SOMEBODY
PHONE DAVE
DONALDSON OF
THE HOMICIDE
SQUAD...



WE'RE ALL BIG MOVIE NAMES. IF IT GETS OUT THAT WE WERE AT A MURDER PARTY LIKE THIS, OUR REPUTATIONS WILL BE WRECKED.

THE ONLY WAY I'LL LET YOU SCRAM BEFORE THE COPS ARRIVE IS FOR THE REAL KILLER TO CONFESS.

YEAH?



HOW ABOUT YOU, HON? VANN JILTED YOUR SISTER. DID YOU STICK HIM WITH A COUPLE OF HYPO-NEEDLE GIMMICKS FULL OF SNAKE VENOM?

NO! I SWEAR I DIDN'T!



LOOK, O'NEILL, YOU WERE VANN'S AGENT AND HE TOLD YOU TO GET YOUR THIEVING HANDS OFF HIM. MAYBE HE FOUND OUT YOU WERE STEALING FROM HIM AND YOU BUMPED HIM TO SAVE YOURSELF FROM EXPOSURE.

WHY, YOU LOUSY SNOOP!



THAT FOR YOU!

GLOOBSH!



OW!
I'M SHOT!

EE-EEK!

NO - ONLY
CREASED. NEXT
TIME I'LL REALLY
PLUG YOU.



WHILE CHARM MARLOWE BANDAGES O'NEILL'S NICKED SHOULDER, THE COWBOY STAR SPEAKS TO DAN TURNER.

BUT, SHERLOCK, HOW COULD THE KILL BE PREMEDITATED?

MEANING WHAT, BUB?



NOBODY IN THE CROWD EVER SAW CHARM'S MAGIC ACT BEFORE. WE DIDN'T KNOW SHE USED LIVE SNAKES. SO HOW COULD ANY OF US PREPARE SNAKE-VENOM HYPO NEEDLES IN ADVANCE?

HMM-M. YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THERE.



THANKS FOR THE TIP, PAL. NOW OUT OF MY WAY -

HUH-?



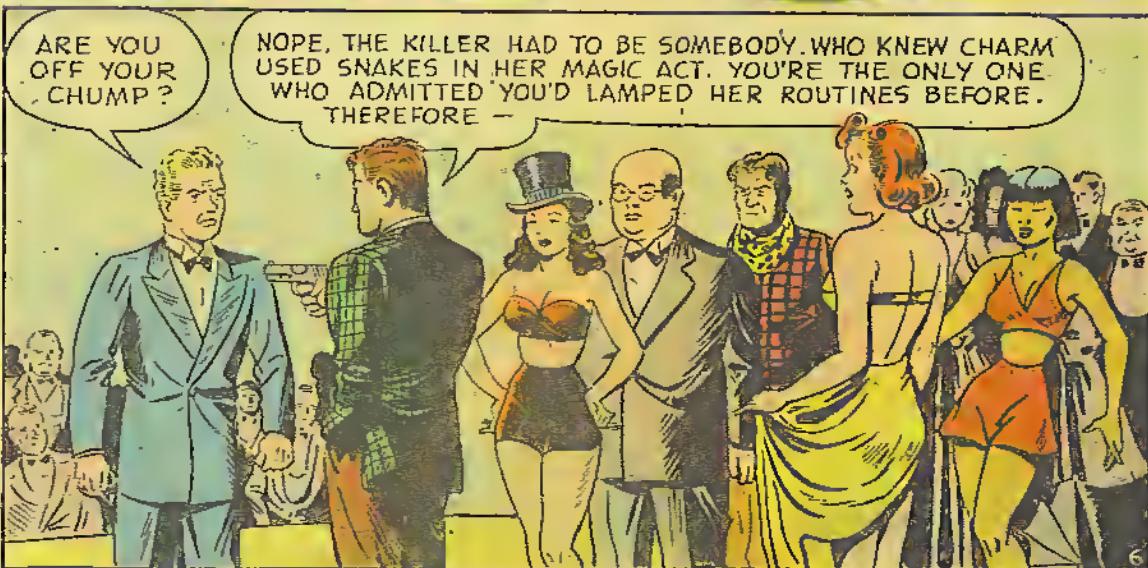
TURNER CONFRONTS PETE DRAKE, THE SLAIN COMEDIAN'S NEPHEW...

WELL, PUNK, HOW MUCH GEET DID YOU FIGURE TO INHERIT BY BUMPING YOUR UNK?



ARE YOU OFF YOUR CHUMP?

NOPE, THE KILLER HAD TO BE SOMEBODY WHO KNEW CHARM USED SNAKES IN HER MAGIC ACT. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO ADMITTED YOU'D LAMPED HER ROUTINES BEFORE. THEREFORE -





A NEW DAN TURNER CASE IN NEXT ISSUE . . .

Prayer Works Wonders



SHE'S THE ONE FOR ME! GLAD I HAVE A DINNER DATE WITH HER TONIGHT!

LATER...

HOPE THIS NEW TIE REGISTERS WITH HER... I SURE WANT TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION!

NEXT MORNING...

HOW DID IT GO LAST NIGHT, SON? DID YOU HAVE A NICE TIME?

OH SO, SO, MOTHER!

YOUR BEST FRIEND, BEN, SHOWS HIS GIRL HOW HE FEELS ABOUT HER, BY TAKING HER TO SYNAGOGUE EVERY WEEK! WHY DON'T YOU TRY THE SAME AND TAKE YOUR GIRL TO CHURCH? THERE ISN'T A GIRL IN THE WORLD WHO WOULDN'T APPRECIATE AND RESPECT SUCH AN INVITATION!

ATTEND THE CHURCH OR SYNAGOGUE OF YOUR CHOICE...

IN COOPERATION WITH RELIGION IN AMERICAN LIFE...